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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,933	03/26/2004	Edward F. McNair	2-5635-002	1908
803	7590	05/08/2006	EXAMINER	
STURM & FIX LLP 206 SIXTH AVENUE SUITE 1213 DES MOINES, IA 50309-4076			GAY, JENNIFER HAWKINS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3672	

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

NOTICE OF NON-RESPONSIVE AMENDMENT

1. The reply filed on April 25, 2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): applicant did not elect a species from each group, see further explanation below. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**


2. In the Election Requirement mailed on April 04, 2006, the examiner indicated that there were two separate groups of species, Group 1 and Group 2. Group 1 included Species I-II and Group 2 included Species IV-VI. Applicant was instructed to choose a species to be examined from each group where the species from Group 1 and the species from Group 2 would be examined together along with the generic claims. Applicant has only elected a species from Group 1, the type of weight, but has not indicated which species from Group 2, how the weight was affixed to the piping, applicant would like examined. A proper response requires the election of a species from each group.

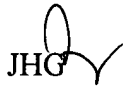
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer H. Gay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7029. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00 and Friday, 6:30-1:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3672

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jennifer H. Gay
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672


JHG
May 2, 2006